PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on **June 1, 2005**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman, Chairman

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Vice • Chairperson

Leg. Cameron Alden

Leg. Angie Carpenter

Leg. Jon Cooper

Leg. William J. Lindsay

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mea Knapp, Counsel to the Legislature

Ian Barry, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan, Chief Deputy Clerk

Ronald F. Foley, Commissioner of Parks

Tom Hroncich, Parks Department

Charles Bender, Aide to PO's Office

Greg Moran, Aide to PO's Office

Eric Brown, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman

Ed Hogan, Aide to Leg. Nowick

Jaqueline Caputi, Assistant County Attorney

Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive

Frank Tassone, Aide to Majority Leader

Jill Moss, Budget Review Office

Kevin LaValle, Aide to Leg. Losquadro

Paul Perillie, Aide to Minority Caucus
Terry Pearsall, Aide to Leg. Lindsay
Warren Greene, Aide to Leg. Alden
Barbara LoMoriello, Aide to Leg. Cooper
Louis Brida

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(THE MEETING CONVENED AT 11:12 AM)

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'd like to call this meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature to order on this first day of June 2005. I think we have a quorum. Let's see, we need four for a quorum. All right. We won't start quite yet. Legislators for the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee please report to the horseshoe.

Legislator Alden, Legislator Lindsay, if you can hear my voice. Here is Legislator Cooper. We have a quorum.

I have one card for the public portion.

If you will all rise and join us for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Nowick.

(SALUTATION)

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Now to public portion. We have one speaker card. If there is anyone else who wishes to be heard please fill out a yellow card. Louis Brida, who is speaking on High Point Park, County Road 16. Mr. Brida, you have three minutes.

MR. BRIDA:

Yes. High Point Park is a proposed park for a 9/11 memorial and it's located across the street from the Regal Cinema in Holbrook. I live just about two blocks from there. I'm just wondering, we had the visionary process along County Road 16, okay. There's going to be like three town centers, one near Hawkins Avenue, the other one by me, the High Point area by Waldbaum's shopping center and another one by Morris Avenue.

Now, this High Point Park is supposed to be the center of this development of County Road 16 which is Portion Road. I was just wondering, how •• when is this land going to be purchased, who is going to purchase it. Is it Brookhaven Town going to do the park or is it •• I was hoping Mr. Lindsay was here. He was just here a second ago. I thought he might know. But, you know, if a park is proposed and the land is for sale, doesn't it have to be purchased right away or if somebody wants to buy it, wouldn't you lose that land? I'm just curious.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Let me see if there is anybody on the horseshoe who is prepared to respond to this. If not, Budget Review, does anybody have information on this?

MS. MOSS:

No.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Why don't you have a seat. When Mr. Lindsay comes in he may be able to provide more information.

MR. BRIDA:

All right. Maybe I should go to Brookhaven Town, but it's a County road. All right.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. I'm not familiar with this project.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Well, it's probably something more appropriate in the Public Works Committee.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's why we don't have any answers here.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. Public Works.

MR. BRIDA:

Is Public Works in Brookhaven Town probably?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

No. Public Works Committee of the Legislature.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Here.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

When is the next meeting of Public Works?

LEG. CARPENTER:

That was yesterday. Who's your Legislator? Where do you live?

MR. BRIDA:

Oh, Joe. Joe Caracappa.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay. So why don't you call Legislator Caracappa's office and maybe they could call Public Works on your behalf and get those answers for you. Because if it's a County road, then they'll have that information.

MR. BRIDA:

Yeah. Okay. I'll find out.

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brida.

MR. BRIDA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Anyone else wishing to be heard? Okay. Actually here comes Legislator Lindsay and Alden.

LEG. LINDSAY:

We were waiting for you to say something.

LEG. ALDEN:

We were waiting for you to start.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I announced it twice. I called you by name.

LEG. ALDEN:

All right.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Just to publically embarrass you. Legislator Lindsay, there was a question a moment ago. Mr. Brida, before you step out, I just wanted to give Legislator Lindsay •• you said you thought he might have an answer to your question. He has stepped in so maybe if you could repeat the question.

MR. BRIDA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

If Bill has any information. I'm going to ask you to return to the podium. Go ahead.

MR. BRIDA:

I was just curious about High Point Park on Portion Road, part of the visionary process on the town center number two, across from the Regal Cinema. That's land that's proposed to be a 9/11 memorial and I'm wondering who's going to purchase this land and if they haven't, when, what's going to happen. Because •• is it a Brookhaven Town problem, maybe it is, but it's County Road 16.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Part of the County Road 16, the visioning process that went on in that community is I know that as a result of that process they recommended the purchase of different parcels along that. There is one parcel in my district, because I only have the two, two ED's that are a little bit further east. I have a parcel on Robins Lane and Portion Road that we have the planning steps in now. But that's not the same parcel you're talking about.

MR. BRIDA:

No, I am talking about across from the Regal Cinema where the 9/11 memorial is supposed to be.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, I don't know about that one because that isn't in my district. And I haven't seen a resolution come forward from that and I'm not sure whether that's Legislator Caracappa's district.

MR. BRIDA:

Yes, it is.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah. Okay.

MR. BRIDA:

All right. I'll talk to him.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. I'm sorry I can't help.

MR. BRIDA:

But the visionary process •• started by Brookhaven Town or Suffolk County?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I believe it was started by the community.

MR. BRIDA:

The Ronkonkoma Civic organization.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah. And the town and the County participated in it.

MR. BRIDA:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Let's move on to our Park Commissioner. Commissioner Ron Foley is here to update us on various projects and answer any questions or respond to any concerns we might have. Mr. Foley, you have the floor.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Thank you. I had a few items that have been of note over the past few months I just wanted to update the Legislature on. One is the erosion at Smith Point County Park. Because of severe erosion over the entire winter, which seemed to come in little bursts instead of one major noticeable storm, the outer beach area past the campground is closed and that eliminates the four wheel drive access for fishing and day use and camping beyond the eastern improved part of the park. We're watching it almost daily to see how much sand comes back as the weather patterns change and we're hopeful that we can get it reopened, but you may hear from people who are unhappy that they can't get out there.

The other thing that's happened from that is those people •• many of those people who would use the outer beach at Smith Point are now looking for other places across the County, so

Shinnecock East and Montauk and a number of other places that have outer beach access are seeing a dramatic increase in their use, so we're having to deploy the police differently and park workers as well.

Trap and Skeet Range has always been a big issue here.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Mr. Chairman, if I could?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yup.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Before you leave the Smith Point can we make comments on each of these?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Sure. Absolutely.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to commend you and all of your staff. A neighbor of mine is new to camping in the last year or two and they got this big, you know, humongous camper trailer and off they went for Memorial Day weekend to Smith Point County Park. And Monday when they came home I asked them how it was. He has got three little boys, and when he was leaving he is going I don't know how long we're going to last with these three kids, but he said to me it was absolutely wonderful. The park was in incredible condition. It seemed that every time they turned around almost every couple of hours people were picking and cleaning up. He was very, very impressed. So, you know, I just want to tell you how proud I was to be part of Suffolk County and to hear those kind of accolades. So please share them with your staff.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Thank you. I will share it with the staff because they have taken a new ••

LEG. CARPENTER:

It really made an impression. It was his first time, you know, using a County facility and he was totally blown away. He couldn't believe it.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The staff there are taking a new look at customer service and how to improve what they are delivering and they are working very hard and I'll share your comments with them. Thank you.

Any other questions on that?

The next item was Trap and Skeet. We advertised for proposals for that. We were successful in getting one proposal. That's all we got was one. We're evaluating it now and we'll be making some determination on a wording, a contract for operating a concession there. That doesn't mean it will immediately open because part of our success here will be discussing how to invest the County's money alongside the private operator's money to get the best outcome for the people who want to use that place. So I can't predict yet when it will open. I can't even say today that this proposal is one we'll accept because we're still reviewing it.

LEG. CARPENTER:

If I could on this issue because ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

You know, we over these past number of years had an inordinate amount of people coming forward to speak in support of this and getting it reopened as quickly as possible, and with just one responder does it seem that this is someone who's credible, that the possibility exists that you should be able to go forward with this person?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I think it would be premature to answer that question.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Until we sit down and really take a look at this proposal.

LEG. CARPENTER:

And because it's just one responder I would assume, then, that we would have to have a resolution allowing you to go forward with this.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

That may be. Yeah.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So, I think that is in fact the case. Maybe Counsel can speak to it so that just be aware •• am I correct that since there's just one person that responded to the RFP then we would have to have a resolution explaining that and accepting that?

MS. KNAPP:

Right.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So that maybe we could be doing that a dual track.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Okay. Let's have time to look at it and make sure it warrants that.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Third House is always of interest to the Chair. That's been out to bid for about a week. The bids are due back on June 28th. The contract is divided up into a base contract and several alternates. The base contract will give us a solid stable building protected from the weather and some interior structural improvements. And then several of the alternates, depending on how the prices come in, we'll deal with changes to the kitchen area, establishing some formal

offices versus the kind of informal thing we have there now and enlarging the main room so it's more of an education center. So we'll know more about that the end of June.

Cupsogue access still is always going to be a problem because of the Saturday and Sunday volume of people that want to get into a very small place. There's about 1,100 parking spots and probably 2000 people who want to be there, less than 20 campsites and probably 60 or 70 people who want to be there everyday and that results in a backup on Dune Road into and beyond the village which is irritating to the Mayor. We have tried to come up with some new changes, add another toll booth, try to speed up the flow of traffic through there, but we need some DEC approvals to do some of these changes so they have taken longer than we had hoped, but we're attempting to make some improvements there.

The Scully mansion, which the family called _Wearholm_, I don't know what that name means exactly, but that's what they dubbed it, we're still working with an architect hired by Seatuck to do preliminary plans for reuse of the building. Legislator Alden was there at one of the meetings to review those. They seemed like they are coming along pretty well. We've still got a lot of work to do to get the money spent for the environmental interpretive center by the end of '06, but we are progressing that as quickly as we can. There is still an asbestos problem there that has got to be resolved, too, so no occupancy can occur until that is done.

Revenue. I handed out to you, because it came up at the capital hearing, a report of revenue for 2004. Not included in this report is concession revenue and revenue from rentals and a number of other miscellaneous categories. But these are the major dollars coming from the points where we collect the money. We added in Bergen Point there although that is a privatized operation. It's about •• in 2004 it was about eight million and specifically the question of golf, it's around four million. So half of the revenue the department generates in these kinds of operations comes from golf.

And the last thing I wanted to talk about which was not on the list ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We have a question on revenues.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Sure.

Legislator Nowick and then Carpenter.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes. I just wanted to ask you, I see enterprises here, the big duck and the St. James General Store. What is it? This is the first year that we •• 2004 was the first year that we actually collected money?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Well, it's the first year that the department was responsible for those operations.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, because the ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

They had been under contract with the Friends for Long Island Heritage. When that ended, Parks took them over. I hope it's not a forever thing that the government operates those places, but we are temporarily.

LEG. NOWICK:

So since the Parks Department has taken over the big duck and the general store, there is more revenue being brought in?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

In a manner of speaking there will be more revenue showing up in this format. Theoretically we got the benefit of the revenue from the contract with the Friends by it being reinvested in the properties. So the benefit doesn't change but the revenue shows up in a different place now.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

But you also have expenditures against that revenue?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes, we do. And they show up, too.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah. So, is this a net?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

No this is not net. This is gross.

LEG. CARPENTER:

These revenue figures are gross?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yup. This is only revenue. The expenditure side doesn't show here at all.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay. The increase in revenue at Timber Point, is part of that the fact that we had nine holes closed during the renovation?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

To show that huge jump?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yeah. This is the •• '04 was the first full year •• the first year of full operation since the renovation.

LEG. CARPENTER:

And I guess there really is no way to break out what increase there is proportional to the fact that we have 18 but it's also been enhanced.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

You'd have to do a historical study and see what play was like years ago.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

And not look at revenue.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Right.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

But look at numbers of golfers.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Number of rounds.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

And see if you can make a comparison there.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah. I think it might be a good idea, I know I've noticed that there have been advertisements in Newsday in the sports section for the fact that the County has the four golf courses. I think when you speak about Timber Point, it probably wouldn't hurt to say the newly improved, you know, totally renovated, you know, whenever you are speaking about Timber Point to let John Q. Public know that we have spent money, because generally anyone that you speak about who has played there in the past doesn't know that, you know, unless they play there on a regular basis that it has been totally renovated and is in incredibly wonderful condition.

The increase in revenue at Indian Island, is that because of the electric or that really doesn't show up until •• it was this year we added electric to the campsites and everything there; correct?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We flipped the switch mid. June last year so there was ..

LEG. CARPENTER:

All right. So that might be part of it.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes, it could be. I think it is because one of the attendants on Sunday told me take the electricity away. Once you give these people something they just want more. So now they want a laundry and a store and all kinds of things, which is fine but ••

LEG. CARPENTER:

Well •• and that's all revenue generators. That's a good thing. And again, keep them coming to our parks.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yeah. But the place was full over this last weekend.

LEG. CARPENTER:

That's great.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

They couldn't move another trailer in there.

LEG. CARPENTER:

The decrease in revenue at Cedar Point and Meshutte, is that tied to access with erosion?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Erosion isn't a factor ••

LEG. CARPENTER:

Or is there another reason.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

•• at Cedar Point. I'm not sure •• you know, I don't know what that is from. Meschutt has an

erosion problem. It's hard to point •• you know, that small a decrease, it's a change but it's hard to put your finger on exactly what it is.

LEG. CARPENTER:

All right. I'd be interested in both of those to know if there were days closed because of access issues or if there is some other reason there was a decrease.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It could be weather.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Well ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We didn't close any days at either of those places. We had a problem at Cedar Point with electrical service, but I don't think it would have affected revenue.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Now, could you explain the West Sayville Group Recreation, what is that exactly?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

That's a collection •• both Sayville administration and group recreation are a collection of permits that we issue for picnics and outings and things like that, showmobile rental. It's a conglomeration of all kinds of things that happen generically across the system, not just at one part. And it's green key card sales, all those kinds of things.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So why the decrease of 9,000 in group recreation? Were there less green keys sold?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I don't know.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Were there less rentals? I mean ••
COMMISSIONER FOLEY:
I'll find out.
LEG. CARPENTER:
Okay.
COMMISSIONER FOLEY:
If I can.
LEG. CARPENTER:
Thank you. Thank you for this. This is very helpful. It really is.
CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:
Legislator Lindsay.
LEG. LINDSAY:
Commissioner Foley, there was no increase in fees between '03 and '04, right?
COMMISSIONER FOLEY:
No, no change in fees.
LEG. LINDSAY:
So, I mean, our revenue went up a million one. That just reflects additional usage of our
facilities, right?
COMMISSIONER FOLEY:
Yes.
LEG. LINDSAY:
That's tremendous.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

2003 I wasn't here for, but is historic •• it's fabled to be one of the wettest years that anybody could remember. So I think that really is a cause of that difference. I would like to say it was because I showed up, but it's not.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Oh, for sure.

LEG. LINDSAY:

You couldn't ask for a better straight line. It's a shame you didn't take it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Could some of it be from better cash custody controls? You know, not necessarily increased usage, but more money actually coming to the County?

LEG. ALDEN:

That would be '05.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

That would be '05. Okay. Hard to say.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

In some small •• it could be a mix of a lot of things. That's why I say if I can answer the question I will because these are small changes and there are a number of reasons that they could have changed. I don't think that was a big factor but we'll know more later.

LEG. COOPER:

But it's due at least in part to your leadership, though.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Whatever you are doing ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The wonderful Legislature I'm sure had more to do with it than I did.

Okay. So let's move on then from revenues to your next subject.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

My one last thing is an appeal for a reconsideration of something more than anything else. The department is suffering a dire shortage of usable vehicles. We are operating rolling junk that in some cases the Department of Public Works refuses to repair anymore because the costs are so high. And I think there was a resolution presented that was tabled in the Public Works Committee and I would like to appeal that •• for that to be moved sooner than later.

The Park Police Department has less than 50% of its authorized four wheel drive vehicles available to it because the rest of them have all been decommissioned. This week I gave up my vehicle and another four wheel drive vehicle we used in the pool for the Park Police because they need it more than I do. I need it to get on the beach to see what's going on, but for patrolling outer beach campgrounds and fishing and protecting the people who use the parks respectfully from those whose antics and crimes interfere with that, the Park Police need those vehicles.

The same situation is occurring in our Maintenance Unit and the Operations Unit. We are shuffling vehicles around everywhere we can to get them in the most needed places leaving someone else short. It's a tough situation we are in. I am just asking if that can be moved along. We certainly would appreciate it and I think the park using public would benefit from it.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Jay, on that point.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

There is a date that for fleet purchase when you have to have the •• are we past that date? Do you know when the date is?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It's my presumption we're past the date two years in a row now. It doesn't mean you can't

buy vehicles. If someone is willing to honor those prices you can still get them, but the fleet build•out dates usually are in early in the spring from my knowledge in the past. I don't know if that has changed today.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So we're already past the date.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I can't say definitively, but my recollection from when I was with the State and going through the same process is it was earlier than now, but that doesn't close the door to acquiring vehicles.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Any questions?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

That's all I have. If you have questions or anything of me?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Any questions? Okay. Thank you, Commissioner.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just on •• through the Chair.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Commissioner, on that point. Were you at Public Works?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, okay. That's why you are letting us know. We'll take it back. Okay.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I didn't •• yeah, I don't usually attend committee meetings other than this one, but I heard the outcome.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Who's on Public Works? Are you on Public Works?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You are.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I am. There was some discussion about that but perhaps you could contact Legislator Binder who Chairs Public Works.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Sure. Okay.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I think that would be helpful because we are meeting again in two weeks.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

All right. Good. I will.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, Commissioner. All right. Let's go to the agenda.

Okay. Resolution 1347, Authorizing use of Blydenburgh County Park by the Kidney and Urology Foundation for a 5K Walk. I've had a request from the sponsor to table this.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion to table and a second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Okay. 1347 is tabled. (Vote: 6/0/0/0)

1382, Authorizing use of Gardiner County Park by Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation for its Pet Walk Fundraiser.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I want to table that for just one more cycle.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

A motion by Legislator Carpenter, second by Legislator Alden, to table. All in favor? Any opposed? 1382 is tabled. (Vote: 6/0/0/0).

1443, Establishing an Ecology and Technology (Eco•Tech) Park in Suffolk County.

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to table for one cycle.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion by the sponsor to table. Second by Legislator Alden. All in favor of tabling? Any

opposed? 1430 is tabled. (Vote: 6/0/0/0)

1452, Appointing Melissa A. Cecere • Sellars as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 9). I don't believe that there is any vacancies currently on this committee. This would be the point of Melissa Sellars as a member of Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission.

LEG. COOPER:

That being the case I make a motion to withdraw this resolution.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I don't think you have to do that by motion, but •• or table subject to call and then you can withdraw it formally with the Clerk. So there is a motion to table subject to call by the sponsor, 1452. Second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Any opposed? Okay. 1452 is tabled subject to call. (Vote: 6/0/0/0).

Same motion, same second on 1465, Appointing Mary Ann Neil as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 9).

All in favor? Any opposed? 1465 is tabled subject to call. (Vote: 6/0/0/0)

1471, Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park by IGHL Foundation on behalf of the families of TWA Flight 800 for their sunset evening at the Memorial Fundraiser. Do we have a motion?

LEG. COOPER:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion by Legislator Cooper, second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Any opposed? Approved. (Vote: 6/0/0/0)

1500, authorizing use of Long Island Maritime Museum by the Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation for their "Annual Run/Walk and Barbecue" Fundraiser. Is there a motion?

LEG. COOPER:

Motion.
LEG. CARPENTER:
Lindsay, that's his district.
LEG. LINDSAY:
Second.
CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:
Okay. Motion by Legislator Lindsay.
LEG. CARPENTER:
Second.
CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:
Second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Any Opposed? 1500 is approved. (Vote:
6/0/0/0)
1501, Authorizing use of Indian Island County Park by Birthright of Peconic, Inc., fo
its Walkathon Fundraiser. I'll make a motion, second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Ar
opposed? Approved.
(Vote: 6/0/0/0)
1572, to waive the park fee for the Bay Area Head Start annual picnic at Southaven
County Park.
LEG. ALDEN:
Motion.
CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:
There's a motion by Legislator Alden, second by Legislator Nowick. On the motion, Legislator
Lindsay.
LEG. LINDSAY:

Do we have any kind of criteria for waiving fees? I mean, we just approved the use of the park by about five other organizations that are paying a fee. Why are we waiving a fee here?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

I can't speak a hundred percent for the sponsor, but if you look at the name of this, this is the Bay Area Head Start. Head Starts are usually income targeted so you might have an organization here that might not really be able to utilize the fees to pay or the money to pay our fee and could utilize them better in either the educational process or whatever else. So I would think that that is why the sponsor put it in this way.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So, it isn't a fundraiser.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's not a fundraiser. It's just a picnic for low income ••

LEG. ALDEN:

A bunch of kids that, you know.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

And we waive this every year typically? Counsel?

MS. KNAPP:

My understanding is in the past it never came to the Legislature. They simply applied to the Parks Department in the past and were able to hold their picnic. At least that is what the sponsor has advised me.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. So, we had a motion and a second. All in favor? Any opposed? I'm sorry?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Mr. Zwirn wanted to comment.

MR. ZWIRN:

We just wanted to say we're not going to stand in the way of the Legislature waiving fees. Certainly the County Executive doesn't have the prerogative nor would he interfere. He just wants everybody to have some sort of criteria so that we can do it on a regular basis because he gets requests as well. And the Head Start Program may very well, as Legislator Alden said, this would be one that if any group would need some help from the County to have a picnic and waiving the fees this is probably, you know, a very good example.

But I know as you go further down the list you'll see that there's waiving fees for the showmobile for a blues concert in Riverhead. And we just, the County Executive's just asking for some sort of consistent criteria. We don't know if that is a not•for•profit, whether that is a for•profit festival. So there is a mixed bag here.

And I noticed we went through the revenues in the Parks Department. Some of this is going to be affected. And Commissioner Foley, he is a terrific guy. You can see how well he wants to work with the Legislature and everybody in the County. So if he can get some sort of criteria so that when groups approach him •• just so we're all on the same page about •• we're not talking about ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think that's fair.

MR. ZWIRN:

•• a tremendous amount of money.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think this one, whatever criteria you establish will be met. This is certainly the kind of thing that the County ought to be reaching out and trying to help. Why don't we move this resolution. We're going to have a few more that we can discuss as we get there. So on 1572 I think I called the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? 1572 is carried.

(Vote: 6/0/0/0)

Let's move on to 1581, Linking County park fees for Community Emergency Response

Team Volunteers, Medical Reserve Corps. Volunteers and Volunteers in Police Services to park fees for senior citizens.

Maybe we can get a little explanation on this bill. Counsel?

MS. KNAPP:

This bill is very similar to one that was done in 2001 for volunteer firefighters. It now extends it to cert and fibs I think they are. These are •• these are groups that are in my understanding very similar to volunteer firefighters. I mean, you may know more about the groups than I do. Community Emergency Resource Team, Medical Reserve Corp volunteers and volunteers in police services. And basically, again, the resolution tracks the 2001 resolution exactly and it allows them to be eligible for the same rates that are currently being paid by senior citizens for park fees. And it requires them to show some sort of proof that they're members of the designated organization.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I just •• my only concern with this is you could open this up to many, many more organizations. You know, Red Cross and ladies auxiliaries.

LEG. ALDEN:

You mean Pandora's box?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

No. This is a lot of people who do volunteer work for •• maybe we should. There is a lot of great causes that relate to, you know, to emergency response. I mean, we could ••

LEG. COOPER:

Do we have any idea what the fiscal impact could be?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I was going to say does the Commissioner have a comment about it?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm hearing that it does not apply to golf fees, which is our largest fee generator. Maybe the

Commissioner could comment on this bill.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Not knowing how many of these types of people there are, I don't •• I couldn't give you a firm number on revenue impact. It wouldn't apply to golf and I believe, oh, I haven't read it recently, it doesn't apply to camping. So it would give people in these categories a discount on the green key fee from the \$20 normal fee down to nine and it would give them free access to parks weekdays. They would still have to pay on weekends and holidays. And the fiscal impact would entirely depend on how many of them there are and how many would take advantage of it.

LEG. CARPENTER:

If I could.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

If it does not apply to golf fees and camping fees, and it's midweek or during the week for admission to the parks, it's almost like we're not really going to have much of a fiscal impact because I don't think at any point in time we have to be turning away people at our County parks during the week because we don't have enough room for them to come in.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Well, I don't think it's a question of volume. I think it's a question of fiscal impact.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Right. And •• but if they have a green key •• that it might encourage them to purchase a green key that they may not otherwise get the green key. Whether it's a discounted rate or not, if you have your green key you are admitted into the park.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Right.

LEG. CARPENTER:

You don't pay an additional fee.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

No, you do. You do pay a fee when you enter the park. If you have •• your green key gets you the residents park entry fee.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Resident rate.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay. So, then it would be the resident senior citizen rate, which would be free admission or a discounted rate?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Free during the week.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Free during the week.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Let me make sure I'm saying this correctly. Free during the week. Regular fee on weekends, which is currently \$5 at beaches and \$3 at inland parks. And there is a discount for camping for seniors. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have excluded that. Golf is excluded but camping is a 50% rate for seniors.

LEG. COOPER:

I'm going to make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

LEG. COOPER:

So we can try to determine the fiscal impact.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. There's a motion to table. Is there a second on the tabling motion?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a second.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, on the motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just one thing we should think about and maybe the Commissioner could brief us on it at the next committee meeting. There is a principle, KISS, that really should apply here and when you keep it simple then the people that are at the point of taking the money, they don't make a lot of mistakes, it is very simple. If it's real complex, then you end up with a lot more mistakes or the possibility of mistakes. So, that's one consideration. And I don't mind saying thank you to volunteer firemen and volunteer ambulance corp workers and things like that, but we really have to take an overall look at •• if you have got a fee schedule that runs 15 pages, you've got a problem, so.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We do have that problem. It is a legitimate point.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You know, we could extend this to veterans. I mean, there's so many people.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The good part •• the good point about this proposal is it does tie into an existing fee rather than creating a new one that would add a new line on the schedule, but it does add three more categories of people that, you know.

LEG. ALDEN:

You'd almost want to see something where, you know, it can be applied a little bit simpler maybe through the process of an application for a green fee. If we give them the reduction in price there and then they pay, you know, like the normal fee going forward, or even give them a free green key card, waive the fee to say thank you, that's something that a little bit simpler and a little bit easier to process. Whereas you've got categories now when you go to a campground where they've got to look up and there's, you know, two or three pages of people that if they show I.D. that you're a fireman, if you show I.D. you are a senior citizen, you know, it can start to get a little bit complex.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It seems to me that we can introduce lots of resolutions similar to this one to thank other people, you know, reservists, soldiers. I could go on probably for a long time.

LEG. ALDEN:

With the exception of the guy that has to pay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I mean, there's just so many people who are doing great work in our communities and for our nation.

LEG. COOPER:

And what if you're a senior citizen who's a volunteer firefighter? And a veteran?

LEG. CARPENTER:

We pay them.

LEG. COOPER:

Yeah, we pay them, right.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We only give you one discount.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The other thing is it becomes like a cruel joke. You know, you are saying to the firefighters that you are giving them a discount but it doesn't apply to this, it doesn't apply to that, it doesn't apply to this. And when you are all done they are liable to say what did you give me, you know?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. If you give them a discount on golf they'll probably be very thankful. I guess we're not done discussing the tabling motion. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I just wanted to ask you one question. One question. When somebody like this would apply for the green key card, are those cards at that time when they are issued, do they get bar coded? In other words, if it is a veteran, when they apply the code to the card so then when you go to these •• when you go to a beach and it's free during the week, does the bar code •• can you scan it like a credit card?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

They have a bar code on them which we can't read.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay, that's sounds good. I'm glad I asked.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

By next ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is there a veterans discount now?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Is there what?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

A veterans discount?

LEG. NOWICK:

On the bar code?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes. There is a discount for families of mobilized veterans. But, and what I wanted to interject here is we would like to come back to the Legislature in a time that coincides with implementation of this new system you have approved for us to install in parks with readable bar codes and immediate issue cards with a fee schedule that kind of cleans up some of the confusion that's in this, makes it simpler. And that's part of our cash control challenge, is when you have this many different discounts and programs and it just confuses everything.

The staff in the parks •• the reason you get these requests for resolutions is the staff in the park always asks everyone who comes are you eligible for any discount. And they say well, who is eligible and they read off the list. If they are not on there, then they call one of you and well, we ought to be on there. But they are very good in trying to make sure the people who you've designated as eligible for discounts get them. But doing that creates other questions about new categories of people.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. I think at this point this is a little bit widespread. I think Legislator Alden is right, it's getting confusing.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I think we can streamline it and we would like to come back to you later in the year with a proposal to do that. How you decide what part of the world is eligible for discounts, I don't know if we'll have a solution to that.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm thinking about pumping up the price and then when we give them a discount they'll feel

better.

LEG. COOPER:

I like the way you think.

LEG. ALDEN:

We'll just quadruple the price on everything.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But if we're in the category that doesn't get the discount we pay twice as much.

LEG. ALDEN:

We're going to make sure we're in that •• one of those categories.

LEG. COOPER:

Yeah, we'll work that out, Bill.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. There was a motion to table and a second. All in favor of tabling? Any opposed? Tabled. (Vote: 6/0/0/0).

1586, To waive fee for use of the County showmobile for the Riverhead Blues Festival.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I'm going to make a motion to approve and I'll tell you why. I have attended this a couple of years ago and I really think this festival is an economic generator. And I think it's run by the Chamber of Commerce, if I'm not mistaken, in downtown Riverhead. And it really could be a major happening for Suffolk County. I don't even know if they've maximized their potential for this thing or advertised it enough, but it really is •• it does have the potential to really bring, you know, tourists and people to the Riverhead community.

A lot of people show up?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Oh, yeah. It's really cool. They have continuous, you know, jazz and blues, you know, acts performing on the stage. So I make a motion to approve. I think it is really a worthwhile economic development investment for us to consider this.

LEG. LINDSAY:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. We got a bunch of people on the list. Legislator Alden, then Lindsay, and then Cooper and myself.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much is the fee?

MR. ZWIRN:

I think the fee in this case is almost \$2000.

LEG. ALDEN:

And how does this tie in with 1628 which said to partially waive the fee.

MR. ZWIRN:

I think they want to pay half the fee.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I like that one better.

MR. ZWIRN:

And the question that we have is that if this •• because it has to be manned. There is not only the showmobile that has to be staffed there and it is overtime and everything else, we just need some sort of criteria as to, you know, what we are going to charge for it at all. It's a great facility to have, it is a great thing to be able to bring to the different parts of the County, but

there is a cost involved with it. We just need some direction.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is there any indication of, you know, like how much fees they are going to generate with this festival?

LEG. CARPENTER:

I don't know that they really generate any because there is no charge to go to it. I mean, it's in an open air area on the banks of the river there and there is no fee to go to it. I'm sure they must get ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It sounds like a member item.

LEG. CARPENTER:

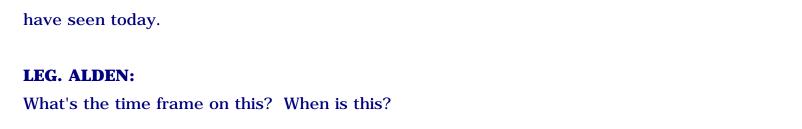
They might have •• generate revenue from sponsors of the festival. And •• but then again, they are going to have to pay for the acts. I'm sure those acts are not free. Some of them are pretty known acts.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'd help them out if you need some money for a grant to, you know, to pay for this. But I think we have to work with the County Executive's Office. I think they're right to develop a set of criteria. Like if this is a not•for•profit and they are not going to turn any money on it as Legislator Carpenter just said, then, you know, that's something we should be able to consider and waive the fee because, you know, where are they going to get the \$2000 to actually pay for this. Do they have to hurt people or charge them an admission, you know, change something around.

MR. ZWIRN:

They have a sponsor. KeySpan is a major sponsor. And we understand. It's just an expense that the County •• that the taxpayers are going to have to incur and there is a sponsor for this one. The Head Start Program we could understand and, you know, we're not going to give you an argument on that. This one we don't know if there is a promotor involved who's making money on this. We just don't know. This is a little bit different than some of the others that we



LEG. CARPENTER:

The festival is in mid•July.

MS. KNAPP:

July 8th.

LEG. ALDEN:

So we have to do something at this meeting or at the outside next meeting.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, realize there are two in front of us, that one is for •• to waive it completely and one is to waive half of it, or partial waiver.

MR. ZWIRN:

It's the Chinese menu approach, it's column A, column B.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Well, I would guess that the sponsor, I mean, I haven't had any discussion with him, but I would assume that he probably felt that he wanted to be safe and have that backup one.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's called plan B.

LEG. CARPENTER:

And since there are •• there is a cost involved with the showmobile and it is the weekend and we do have expenses, that I'll withdraw the motion to approve this but make a motion to approve the half, you know, the discounted one.

Well, let's finish discussion on this. Legislator Lindsay was next and then Cooper.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Just an observation. I have never seen successive resolutions. Waive the fee, waive half the fee, waive a quarter of the fee. My concern about this is, you know, a lot of our communities •• West Islip has something, Sayville has something, Bay Shore has something.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Montauk has something.

LEG. LINDSAY:

If we do it for one, where do we draw the line? And it isn't just, I mean, we spent, I don't know, what did we pay for the showmobile a couple of years ago?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I don't know what the price was but there is a significant overtime cost here.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I sponsored that resolution. I think it was about 75,000.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yeah. It's not inexpensive.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But it isn't just the expense of the showmobile, it's the County employees that have to take it there and set it up and wait for it and drag it back. So, it's a real expense to us.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, there might be another way to come up with the two thousand bucks.

LEG. ALDEN:

I got an idea, Jay.

You're not next. Hold on. Legislator Cooper and then I'll put you back on the list.

LEG. COOPER:

Legislator Schneiderman, I think you were the one who said that this is probably appropriate for member item funding. This is •• I would utilize my funding for something like this. But my question to the Commissioner is I know that the fee that we charge for the showmobile is •• I think is 1950, but what is our actual cost? Does that cover all of our cost?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I haven't calculated the cost. The fee we charge is \$450 per day. This is a multi•day event. And our biggest cost, although I can't quantify it for you today, is overtime. There is only two or three people who can move and set this thing up and be there all the time it is in use and that's usually overtime.

LEG. COOPER:

I'm just concerned that even 450 a day doesn't necessarily cover our cost.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Oh, I don't think it does. But my •• and the reason you're seeing some of these things that maybe you haven't seen before is my interpretation of all our regulations here is that the Legislature reserves for itself the option to waive fees so we don't do it. And that's why you saw the Bay Area request that's been waived in the past. I'm not doing that.

LEG. COOPER:

Does anyone know when this festival takes place?

LEG. CARPENTER:

July 8th.

LEG. COOPER:

Is this time sensitive? July? Could this wait three weeks to try to get a handle as to what the •

Let's finish the discussion. I mean, we can always discharge it without recommendation, at least the second one if we want to do that, but we're not done discussing it. Legislator Alden is waiting to chime in.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm going to ask Legislator Knapp to prepare a piece of legislation that would take \$1950, if that's what the fee is, from an appropriate •• and Budget Review will help out with that, and put Legislator Caracciolo's name on it and I'll co•sponsor it.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The marine helicopter.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, no, no. Mine. Out of mine.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Counsel.

MS. KNAPP:

We do have a problem. Under the charter, the Operating Budget can be amended four times a year by Legislators. And May and September would be the next opportunities. So I would have a problem with that.

LEG. ALDEN:

All right. Or we can reimburse. If we pass one of these we could reimburse the Parks Department at a later date, too.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Would we have to amend the Operating Budget or is there a line that's appropriate for this that

could be used to take money from?

LEG. NOWICK:

Again, if you start to do that, then every town has that right and then we're going to have to start doing that.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right.

LEG. NOWICK:

If we set a precedent. What's going to stop Legislator Cooper or somebody else from ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Let's get rid of the first one, 1586. Is there a motion on 1586 for the full waiving?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion to table and a second. I have a tabling motion by Legislator Carpenter, second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Any opposed? Okay. 1586 is tabled. (Vote: 6/0/0/0)

On to **1628, To partially waive fee for use of the County showmobile for the Riverhead Blues Festival.** Just for clarification, how much is the partial waiver? That is 50%, Counsel?

MS. KNAPP:

50 percent, that's correct.

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to table.

All right. There's a motion to approve by Legislator Carpenter and a motion to table by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

And a motion to discharge without recommendation. Okay. Procedurally which controls?

LEG. CARPENTER:

The motion to table.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

The tabling motion will be first. So we have •• unless you are withdrawing that motion in favor of the discharge without recommendation?

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. There's a motion to table. Is there a second on the motion to table?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a second on the motion to table. All in favor of tabling this? Opposed to tabling? Lynne, where are you?

LEG. NOWICK:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So there is four. So the tabling motion fails. There's a motion to discharge without a recommendation made by Legislator Alden. A second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Opposed.

LEG. COOPER:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Two opposed, Cooper and Lindsay. I'll concur here. We have four to approve to discharge without recommendation. All right. **(Vote: 4/2/0/0 Opposed: Legislators Cooper and Lindsay)** We're obviously going to have this discussion at the horseshoe.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I can tell you if you pass it you are going to get one from my district because I want the same thing.

LEG. COOPER:

And for me. too.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I know. Mine, too. I'm concerned about the precedent this would set. Why don't we use the time to see if it can be modified somehow.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Just for the record, I had a phone call in my office yesterday and I assume that by now they have contacted you to use the show mobile.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I don't know.

LEG. CARPENTER:

A local school district wanted it for a run or something and I didn't want to be the one to tell them that they were going to have to pay a fee so I told them to call the Parks Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We're always telling the bad news.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Submit that resolution now. We got a good deal this week, half price.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Then you'll tell us whether it should be something else.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Moving on to 2265, Donation and dedication of certain lands now owned by Long Island Property Group, LLC to the County of Suffolk Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (SCTM No. 0500 • 343.00 • 02.00 • 026.000, 028.000, 031.000, 034.000 and 037.000) I'm sorry, that's tabled subject to call and nobody is calling it.

We are adjourned.

(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:02 PM)